

Evangelical Recorder

VOL. 91 NO. 4 WINTER 1985

Ontario Bible College and
Ontario Theological Seminary



The Greatest is Love

ONTARIO THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

INTERSESSION '86

January 6 - 17, 1986

9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

THE DOCTRINE OF GOD

Dr. Klaus Bockmuehl, Professor of Theology and Ethics,
Regent College, Vancouver, B.C.

FOUNDATIONS OF CHURCH GROWTH

Rev. Frank Byrne, Field Representative, Canadian Baptist
Overseas Mission Board.

2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

THE DOCTRINE OF THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THE EARLY CHURCH

Dr. Michael Haykin, Professor of Church History, Central
Baptist Seminary, Toronto.

HEBREW WISDOM LITERATURE

Dr. Robert Alden, Professor of Old Testament, Denver
Baptist Seminary, Denver, Colorado.

6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

THE CHURCH'S HIDDEN ORGANIZATIONAL POTENTIAL FOR PEOPLE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTRY EFFECTIVENESS

Dr. Linda Cannell, Director, Church Education Resource
Services, Winnipeg.

COUNSELLING & MISSIONS

Dr. George Ensworth, Professor Pastoral Psychology,
Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary, South Hamilton,
Massachusetts.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Spring Semester

January 27 - April 30, 1986

Monday Courses

9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

INTRODUCTION TO HEBREW EXEGESIS 612

Dr. William Foster, Professor of Theology, OTS

YOUTH MINISTRY IN THE CHURCH 592

Mr. John Wilkinson, Chairman, Christian Education Dept.,
OBC

2:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.

PREACHING PRACTICUM 746

Dr. William McRae, President of OBC/OTS

HISTORICAL THEOLOGY 734

Dr. Douglas Webster, Professor of Theology, OTS

6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

ISSUES IN URBAN MINISTRY 849

Mr. Rick Tobias, Instructor in Urban Ministry

EXEGESIS OF HEBREWS 724

Dr. Roy Matheson, Professor of New Testament, OTS

GOSPEL OF MATTHEW 723

Mr. Allan Martens, Instructor of Greek, OTS

Tuesday Courses

6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.

CHRISTIANITY AND POLITICS

Mr. Gerald Vandezande, Public Affairs Director, Citizens for
Public Justice

ISAIAH 714

Dr. Donald Leggett, Professor of Old Testament, OTS

Thursday Course 6:30-9:30

ELEMENTARY GREEK II 322

SUPPLEMENTARY PROGRAMS:

January 21-23, 1986

PASTORS' AND SPOUSES' CONFERENCE

Stuart and Jill Briscoe, Elmbrook Church, Milwaukee,
Wisconsin.

May 12-15

CANADIAN CHURCH PLANTING & CHURCH GROWTH CONFERENCE

Andrew MacRae, Principal Acadia Divinity College,
together with a number of denominational leaders and
Church Growth practitioners.

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EDITORIAL



Several years ago during an interview on the B.B.C. the renowned Swiss theologian, Karl Barth, was asked the question, "If you had only one message to give to the world today, what would it be?"

What an interesting question!

If you had only one message to give to the world today,

- a world that is staggering, reeling and floundering in the midst of an energy crisis, a population explosion, a runaway inflation and a flood of terrorism,

- a world that is looking for an anchor of hope, a way to peace, a formula for deep and lasting joy, what would your message be?

Barth responded with two words: "The Incarnation".

What did he mean by that?

Why is this message so needed?

How will this meet the deep needs of our troubled world?

First, the incarnation is a message of love, of God's love for undeserving humanity. "For God so loved the world, that He gave..." We are loved of God! What a word of hope this is to the lonely, forsaken and unappreciated. What an incredible privilege it is to be entrusted with such a message. Be sure to share it with at least one person this Christmas season. Begin to pray now for that person whom God will bring into your life. Make yourself available to Him. Don't let this season slip by without spreading the news!

Second, the incarnation is a model of love, of our love for mankind. How did God love the world?

No mere words. There was action! Selflessly, sacrificially He gave. What right do we have to call ourselves children of God if we do not reflect His nature?

The articles of this issue are designed to encourage each of us to share and model His kind of love in our kind of world. Dr. Matheson will take you into the Scriptures for a refreshing feast. Mr. Don Hill will take you into the world of a business executive, and greatly challenge you. With Miss Karen Homer you will visit the skid row of Toronto, and never quite recover from it.

May I take this opportunity to wish each of our OBC/OTS friends the rich and warm blessing of God as you bask in His love. Also, many, many thanks for your prayers and support this year. We are deeply grateful to you and to the Lord.

William J. McRae

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ER-12

THINGS GO BETTER WITH LOVE

Dr. Roy R. Matheson

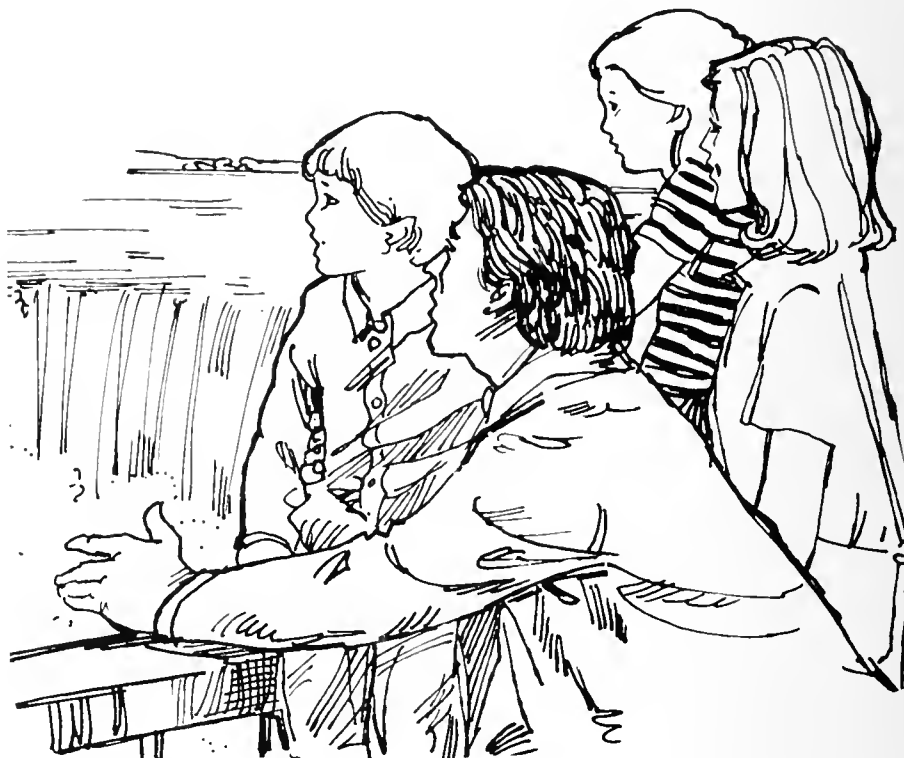
As I made my way to the cash register of the bookstore last Saturday, I noticed that the Romance Section was being stocked with new releases. "Why do people keep buying these fantasies?" I asked myself as I plucked a paperback out of the rack. The summary on the back contained no surprises. Poor, deprived, yet beautiful girl meets handsome man in exotic setting. Little does she realize when they meet at an opulent villa on the South Pacific Island that he is a millionaire. Several hundred pages later, they walk off into the sunset, hand in hand, to live happily ever after.

Does the popularity of these pseudo-love stories say something about the absence of the real thing. Are people so starved for intimacy and significant relationships they will grab anything that remotely resembles the genuine commodity?

Is the title of the popular song, "What the World Needs Now is Love, Real Love", a fitting commentary to paste over our twentieth century world? What an opportunity for the church to fill this emotional void. What better time to demonstrate incarnational love than at the Christmas season. John gives us a blueprint of it in 1 John 4:7-12 by emphasizing three of its facets. (1) It has a divine origin. (2) It has a historical manifestation. (3) It needs a personal demonstration.

Its Divine Origin (4:7-8)

John affirms two truths here with the second explaining the first. He states that, "Love comes from God" (verse 7) and that "God is love" (verse 8). Christians are sometimes fearful that they can never fulfill the love commands of the New Testament. "I don't picture myself as a caring person," they explain. "I continually find myself involved in selfish, self-centred behaviour. To love unlovely people would be an



insurmountable obstacle. A Mother Theresa, I'm not," they rationalize. "I have enough trouble loving my own children, not to mention someone else's," we hear. "If you knew my neighbours, you would see why love is not high on my list," you hear.

John wants to take the drudgery out of love for us. If we are children of God, we possess God's life and God's nature. If God's intrinsic being is love, it is a matter of allowing His nature to use our personalities as an instrument to display it. Just as the rays of the sun filter through the stained glass window and diffuse their warmth, so God uses our varied personalities to disseminate the warmth of His love and care.

A person with a selfish nature will automatically display that nature in selfish acts. One who has a critical

spirit will evidence that tendency by finding fault with those around him. In the same way, a person who possesses God's nature which is love, will reveal that he is born of God by showing compassion. This does not mean it will always be easy or automatic. It does mean that we are not closed in to our own resources, but can tap the infinite resources of the God within us.

Its Historical Manifestation (4:9-11)

God's very essence is love but people cannot see that. God's love must therefore be shown historically in Christ (vs. 9-11) and demonstrated personally through us (v. 12).

(1) Love must be demonstrated in a clear fashion. "This is how God showed his love among us..." is the way John describes it. Some people are extremely awkward or self-

conscious in attempting to verbalize their concern or to show it in action. This is probably because love is like a language that must be learned. To learn a language as a child usually insures that one can speak it fluently and effortlessly later in life. Later on in life when a potential missionary tries to master a foreign tongue, it is not as easily mastered.

My twenty-one year old son left recently for Mexico City where he will be involved in a summer missionary project. For the past few weeks, Steve has been practicing his guidebook Spanish on the rest of the family. He has difficulty speaking the language naturally and his speech has a mechanical, text-book flavour to it. Over the next few months his facility will increase but he will never master it as readily as he would have as a young child.

Love is like that. Many children never receive love in the growing years and so never learn to express it in a natural, uninhibited way. It can be learned later in life but we need even more to rely on God's grace. Expressing and showing concern may be difficult for you. You feel clumsy in extending yourself warmly to others. You are embarrassed as you try publicly to minister to the needs of others. Ask God to help you be a good learner and show it in a natural way.

(2) Love must be demonstrated in a costly fashion. God showed His love, not by offering us something that had no value to Him, but by giving His one and only Son. We must not respond with mere token love. A few days ago, a teenage boy knocked on my door and explained that he was involved in a project to help disadvantaged youths in a neighbouring community. "Would you be willing to make a small contribution?" he wanted to know. I asked a few questions and read a pamphlet he had in his hand. I discovered he worked for a

Christian organization that was worthy of my support. I dug into my wallet and made a small contribution. A few weeks later, I received a receipt for my gift in the mail. I had to think for several minutes before I could remember to whom I had made the contribution. I had given willingly but it was certainly not a sacrificial, costly act. It did not disrupt my life one bit.

God's love is shown in that He sent the very best. We may give less than our best. It means nothing because it costs nothing. The fact that God would not spare His Son but delivered Him up freely on our behalf indicates there is nothing He will not do for us (Romans 8:34).

(3) Love must be indiscriminate and undeserving. God did not wait for us to take the initiative. He did not defer His love until He was certain we would reciprocate. "This is love: not that we loved God, but that He loved us" (v. 10). We sometimes like to pick and choose the project to which our love will be directed. We think of someone worthy of our love whom God will bring across our paths. We want it to be someone who will genuinely appreciate what we are doing for them. We may need to start closer to home.

Husbands are sometimes surprised when God tells us to start by loving our wives. Teenagers speak vaguely of embarking on great projects to demonstrate the love of God. They fail to see that they might best begin by loving their parents with whom they are carrying on a running battle. Perhaps God may be leading you to befriend an unlikeable person in the Christian family who has all the qualities you detest. It may be a case of responding positively to the neighbour who is the most difficult and unreasonable.

Its Personal Demonstration (4:12)

The love of God shown so freely 2000 years ago must be

accompanied by a personal demonstration that can be observed today. Even though God is love, "No one has ever seen God." The implication is clear. People may not see God but they do see us. God lives in us and the circuit is not complete until people see a personal demonstration in our individual lives. When God sought to send a message of love 2000 years ago, He did more than mail a tract. He put in a personal appearance in His Son, Jesus Christ. His love was incarnated in a human being who came and established contact with the very ones He was trying to help. Our love cannot be anything less than that. It is tempting to minister from a distance. We like to keep people at arm's length so that we do not get too heavily involved. We might be willing to help an underprivileged person provided we do not have to see them too often. We prefer to send our money through the mail rather than show up in person. God did more than that. He showed up in person. He involved himself deeply in our lives and is available on a 24-hour basis.

We need to personalize our love more. Instead of sending a card, helpful as that may be, go to the hospital in person. Follow up the phone call with a personal visit. Offer your services to sit with someone who is struggling with a trial. Listen as they tell you how their child has let them down and is far from God.

At the Christmas season we are reminded of the historical demonstration of love, shown incarnationally when Christ became man. We can incarnate that love afresh this Christmas as we reach out sacrificially to hurting people.

This article was adapted from Loving God's Family, by Roy R. Matheson, copyright 1985. Victor Books and has been used with permission. Dr. Matheson is Professor of New Testament, OTS and an Associate of the Pastoral Staff at Chartwell Baptist Church, Oakville, Ontario

EXPRESSING GOD'S LOVE THROUGH FRIENDSHIP EVANGELISM

Donald Hill

What a relief it was for me when I learned I didn't have to witness! Let me explain.

Many Christians are terrified by the word "witness". "I simply can't witness," they say. In reality, however, every person is, in a sense, a witness whether he or she likes it or not. God's intention, in creating man, was to create an image-bearer or witness to demonstrate what He is like (Gen. 1:26).

Our fear arises because we imagine that witnessing requires mastery of a cleverly devised presentation which will overwhelm the person to whom we are speaking. We question our ability to master such a presentation and our boldness in making it.

Starting Point for Witness

Our sense of inadequacy will be lessened, however, if we recognize that we function and witness from the position of being "in Christ" (Col. 3:1-3). If, through the new birth, we are members of His family, we are to be salt and light to this world (Matt. 5:13,14). We are, then, simply channels through whom He communicates to those around us.

Our concentration should be, not on techniques, but knowing and loving Him (John 21:15-17). As we do that, He loves them through us.

As those around us see and encounter us, they will be attracted to Christ because of the evident serenity we enjoy.

Friendship Essential to Witness

Jesus was called "the friend of sinners" (Matt 11:19). Others instinctively sought Him out as their friend. Does that ever happen to us? It can and should if He is in control.

If we are to be effective witnesses, we need to develop new friendships and revive some old ones.

How we do that will depend upon our situation. I personally have



found such opportunity in being a member of a downtown business club and a golf and curling club. Those contacts can be followed up with a lunch or an invitation to a Bible study (perhaps at your home), or to a Christian Business Men's luncheon, or to church.

We should develop a prayer list, including family members, and add daily those with whom we have meaningful conversations or contact. Watch things happen as you develop that list, pray for those on it, and live for Christ before them!

Personal Cleansing Fundamental to Witness

More important than the mastery of some clever plan or technique is our vigilance in our own spiritual life and walk. We can not lightly disregard that personal scrutiny.

The Lord requires that we be clean,

not clever. We cannot harbour sin in our lives and be available to Him at the same time (Psalm 66:18).

Failure at this point will relegate our efforts to becoming futile attempts to be something we are not.

Sharing Our Witness

Each of us has a tendency to talk about what is in our minds. As we memorize scripture, and think about it, the Holy Spirit who is the Author of the Book, will work it into our conversation to help others (Jeremiah 15:16; Hebrews 4:12; Psalm 119:18,97). He does not come, however, to communicate scripture through us if we haven't bothered to digest it for ourselves. If we are going to share the Good News with other people, it is also important that we grasp it for ourselves and be able to express it joyfully to others.



We can, nonetheless, develop "bridges" or "openers" with which to establish contact with others.

In my experience, opportunities to witness sometimes follow a question which I ask. Occasionally, after hearing a person's story I ask, for instance, "How do you fit God into all this?"

In friendship evangelism, I am learning to be spontaneous, to accept interruptions as Divine appointments, and to use plain words - not "God talk" or "Jerusalem jargon". All the time, it is important to remember that God doesn't judge us by results but for obedience and faithfulness (John 14:15).

Avenues for Friendship Evangelism

Many Christians are discovering

that a home Bible study is an effective avenue for friendship evangelism. It is not necessary that we become profound Bible scholars before we embark upon such studies. The Holy Spirit, after all, is the Teacher, and we can depend on Him. On the other hand, you may want to invite someone to come in and to teach and lead the home Bible study.

Many times we have used the book, "How to be a Christian Without Being Religious", which is an informal study of the book of Romans. (Even the title is attractive and does not "turn off" a non-Christian.)

Jesus Our Pattern

Friendship evangelism turns life into an exciting adventure in Christ. He depended on His Father living in Him, directing His will, governing His emotions, telling Him what to say through the indwelling Holy Spirit, and He says to you and to me, "As the Father sent me, so send I you" (John 20:21).

As redeemed image-bearers of God, we are simply to let Him have His way in our lives. We are to be "Christ-conscious" and not "self-conscious". We will then discover that He is "others conscious", and we will begin to see people as He does.

Friendship evangelism, then, is not simply a method of witnessing or a clever scheme to win others. Rather, it is a life lived in His presence, enjoying Him and His creation and developing a growing desire to live the whole of life to His glory and sharing it with others.

Friendship evangelism should flow spontaneously from a life that is truly "in Christ".

Don Hill is a London business executive; past president, Western Ontario division of the Canadian Bible Society; church elder; and Lay Team member for Leighton Ford Crusades.

YONGE STREET MISSION...

Again this year an army of Yonge Street Mission staff and volunteers will collect, sort, pack and deliver an estimated 20 tons of food, toys and clothing to needy Toronto families, senior citizens and destitute individuals. Corporations, local churches, private individuals and students from 120 Metro schools are expected to match their 1984 donations valued at approximately \$25,000 - \$30,000.00.

Last year at Evergreen, the mission's Yonge Street outreach centre, 2,600 free cups of hot chocolate and 800 dozen homemade cookies were distributed to bypassers between December 18th - 24th. In the midst of all the holiday buying and selling, giving something for free demonstrates the heart of the Christmas message.

If you would like to donate food or toys or volunteer during this year's outreach please call Steve Chu, Christian Community Centre 929-9614 or Rick Tobias, Evergreen 977-7259.



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INCARNATING GOD'S LOVE

Karen Homer

Winston lay sprawled in the stairwell in a puddle of urine and cheap wine. His bulky, 6'4" body was wedged in a fetal curl between the door and the wall. His huge hands cradled his bottle while he whimpered in his sleep.

Suddenly the door flew open, smashing into his rib cage.

"Move it, you drunken Indian, or I'll call the cops," snarled the security guard.

Winston moved it. In search of a warm place. In search of a dry place. A place to hide from his memories. The search rarely ends.

• • •

Everyone downtown knows Winston. He's a regular at the soup kitchens, flop houses and drop-in centres – the survival circuit. Winston first appeared at Evergreen (The Yonge Street Mission's outreach centre) about two years ago. He is usually drunk, having scrounged enough money for booze or a can of Lysol. The chemical cocktails make him crazy. All the anger and hurt seething within him ignites. It makes him want to kick heads. Especially when he's made a victim. Like the night a gang of fellow natives beat and mugged him in Allan Gardens. They escaped with less than a dollar in change. Winston's swollen fists were evidence of the brutal battle he waged in defense.

Winston lumbers along the street begging. "Can you spare a quarter for a coffee, mister?" he inquires. His intimidating size is all that prevents some from spitting on him. "Why doesn't he go back to the reserve where he belongs?" is the obvious question on many faces.

But Winston isn't what he appears to be. He is a mass of contradictions. Inside his rugged 53-year-old frame, cowers a little boy.

One of eight kids, Winston was raised on a northern Ontario native



reserve. He was, by his own admission, the blackest sheep of the family.

"They say I broke my mother's heart," he tells me.

Whether you're meeting Winston for the first or twenty-first time, he tearfully recounts how his brother, Sam, fell through an ice skating pond and drowned more than 30 years ago. He talks about it like it happened yesterday. Although he could do nothing to save Sam, Winston still chastises himself.

"He was a good boy," he moans.

"Why didn't God take me instead?"

In some sort of attempt to redeem himself, Winston enlisted in the Canadian forces during the Korean War, along with his younger brother. Winston was chosen for the paratroopers, one of the most dangerous assignments requiring tremendous physical and mental endurance. When he returned from the war, Winston's home town welcomed him as a hero. His brother was buried overseas.

The string of tragedies continued over the years. Winston's wife and three children died in a house fire. He blames himself. "I was out when it happened. I should have been there," he laments.

Years later, Winston was the sole survivor of a crash that killed several people. Thrown from the car, he escaped with minor injuries. "I should have been the one to die," he believes. He was the driver.

"God is punishing me by keeping me alive," he says with finality.

"All those good people – my family, my friends – perished and me, the monster, lived. I'm paying for that."

Convinced that he has lost everything and everyone of value, Winston sees no point in living. He is one of Yonge Street's many hollow men. Winston dreads life – the possible heartbreak lurking nearby. He dreads death even more – fear of what comes afterwards. Unable to forgive himself for real and imagined wrongs, he's committing suicide on the instalment plan – one gulp at a time.

"Why won't Jesus help me stop drinking?" he questions woefully.

It's difficult to know whether Winston is a believer. At times he professes to believe and has ardent flashes of sincerity. During a downtown rush hour one day Winston insisted that Rick Tobias (Evergreen's co-ordinator) kneel and pray with him at the corner of Yonge and Gerrard Streets.

"What's the matter," he demanded when Rick hesitated. "You ashamed or something?"

At times Winston manages to abstain. Until reality crashes in. Then he realizes that sobriety alone doesn't guarantee employment or healed memories. Defeated, he lapses into drinking.

It's easy to be repulsed by the aroma of dried urine and vomit that clings to Winston; by the oozing sores on his bare feet. It's also easy to love him for all that he is.

He is a man of integrity. Although he is the unconquered, outdoor chess champion of the Yonge Street strip, Winston refuses to play for money.

"That would destroy the spirit of the game," he states. "And besides I couldn't take the pressure of having to be a winner."

Winston is a man of fidelity. He takes his friendships seriously. Although Rick Tobias is built like a linebacker, Winston fancies himself to be Rick's bodyguard if and when hassles arise at Evergreen. He jumps to Rick's assistance at the first hint of trouble.

He is a man of pride. He esteems his native culture and heritage highly. He is a man of dignity. He would much rather work with his hands, as he did for years in logging and construction jobs, than panhandle. But those days are gone. Winston's legs were crushed in a steelworking accident leaving him permanently disabled. Alcohol has ravaged his body. His health is shot.

No, Winston is not the man he appears to be. Under his lice-infested clothes and matted hair, lies the Designer's label. Winston bears God's signature. Not unlike the rest of us, the image of God in him is marred; a distorted reflection. But that doesn't mean he's any less worthy of love.

The love manifested that first

Christmas shook the world. Many refused to believe that God would stoop to take the body of a man. God empties himself of His dignity so that ultimately, through Christ, we could regain the dignity forfeited in Eden. God loved us before we even acknowledged His existence. To treat others with dignity is to respond to that love.

Ironically, fragments of that God-given dignity lie in Winston and people like him. Yet sometimes I fail to respond to that. Sometimes I am tempted to salvage my own skin instead of laying down my life for another as Christ commanded.

One evening during a film being shown at Evergreen, Winston stumbled out of the washroom and staggered to the back of the auditorium. As he approached the door where I stood, his belt buckle betrayed him. The three pairs of pants that he wore for insulation slid to the floor.

His co-ordination numbed by booze, Winston pathetically fumbled in slow motion movements to remedy the situation. Some people laughed disparagingly and pointed. Others intently inspected the floor's wax job. Others frantically whispered "Why doesn't somebody do something?"

Like any gutsy, female inner-city worker, I scanned the crowd for a man to come to my rescue. However, Rick was at the front about to speak to the audience. So much for the cavalry.

Throughout all this Winston was blissfully ignorant of the chaos he was creating. But I knew that had he been sober, being the proud and gracious man that he innately was, he would have been deeply humiliated.

At that moment I realized that I love Winston for who I know him to be. Those who jeered and mocked him saw only his deceptive shell. I had the privilege of knowing the man.

Swallowing pride the size of a squash, I grabbed the trousers lying around his ankles and struggled to pull them up. No mean feat in the dark with a 230 pound Grizzly leaning his full weight on me. About midway through this mission impossible, a well-intentioned but nervous bystander ordered Winston to sit down. He placidly complied, not realizing that my thumbs were caught in his belt loops. He crashed into the seat pinning my hands underneath him.

It went from bad to worse.

Unaware of the commotion at the back, Rick launched the crowd of about 100 people into prayer. My urgent pleas to Winston to stand up interrupted the petitions of a slightly inebriated gentleman nearby.

"Lady," he roared, "what are you doing?"

He might as well have pulled the fire alarm. Heads reeled throughout the audience. I grinned sheepishly. Winston belched.

I wanted to blurt out an explanation in my defense; to redeem my now questionable reputation. My babblings were hopelessly inadequate.

That evening I suffered only wounded dignity. In coming to earth, Christ willingly relinquished His dignity and later endured gross humiliation on the cross for my sins. Christmas reminds me of His sacrifice. It reminds me that I am not so much called to evangelize, but to *Immanuelize* every day of the year... to disclose "God with us" in the midst of my life.¹

Winston taught me these truths and for that I thank him. It was, in essence, his Christmas gift to me.

Karen Homer, OTS '81, is Public Relations Coordinator for Yonge Street Mission and also ministers at Evergreen.

1. Jerry Cook, "Less Pressure, More Loving," Leadership Magazine, Spring Quarter 1984, p. 20

WINDOW ON THE WORLD

Ian S. Rennie

The theme of this issue of the *Recorder* is Love, and I thought that it might be helpful to comment on the growth of love that one sees among Christians, both clergy and laity, in various communions.

One of the sad results of Protestantism has been a whole company of denominations, each at the very least somewhat suspicious of one another, and all too frequently pronouncing anathemas against one another. All too often these Christian bodies have been in agreement on most matters of faith and practice. They have only disagreed on a few matters, but these have often been insuperable hurdles.

The Evangelical Awakenings of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries did something to overcome this estrangement as Christians worked together in many voluntary societies which sprang up for the development of evangelistic and missionary work and Christian social action. The problem was that while individuals recognized one another as genuine Christian believers, and reached across the denominational barriers for certain purposes, as soon as the immediate purpose for their coming together was completed, each tended to retreat behind his traditional walls, viewing all other Christians with a fairly jaundiced eye. So on the personal level there was some progress, but on the group level the situation remained largely as it had been.

In the twentieth century, however, changes have been at work. Christians have become more mobile, and travel has exposed them to live fellowship in a variety of denominations. Knowledge of the church in the Third World has indicated that God has been at work in powerful ways through churches representing almost every Christian tradition. Many have wondered that if God signally owns the ministry of others, can we do less.

Part of this search for mutual recognition among churches has been expressed in the ecumenical movement. Unfortunately this

movement has frequently been bedevilled by inadequate theology, which has almost inevitably meant that in many places undue concentration would be placed on concerns for organizational unity. Sadly the appearance has thus often been given of spiritually anaemic churches trying to prop themselves up for a little longer through merger. Then there has been a particularly unfortunate result among some who have had the discernment to see through this approach. They almost seem to have assumed that disunity was a virtue and non-cooperation was to be prized. Theoretically they may have regarded others as part of the Body of Christ, but in practice it seemed to be every church for itself. But thankfully a better spirit is evident in many quarters.

I am most impressed with the new spirit of Christian love that appears to be developing in various localities. Rather than being national and high-profile, it is grass-roots and low-profile. This, of course, may be a great strength. I was first impressed with this development in England a few years ago. In various urban, suburban, and small town communities, the respective congregations seemed to be working together in a very positive way. In these areas, as God was renewing His Church, virtually all the Christian bodies shared a common biblical faith. There was also a sense of appreciation for the whole Body of Christ. Clergy and laity from the different denominations obviously valued, respected, and trusted each other. Their differences and distinctives were seen in proper perspective; so that what they shared in common was seen as much greater than what divided them.

In various parts of Canada I have thanked God to see the same attitude in operation. In many of our communities today almost all members of the ministerial association share a common evangelical faith, and they are working and at times worshipping together happily in many ways as they seek to present Jesus Christ.

What a joy to see an absence of an insensitivity which would seek the growth of one's own congregation regardless of the expense to others. How encouraging it has been to hear pastors say that in a particular time of struggle the greatest support has been received from a fellow pastor of another denomination, from whom even a few years ago he might have been separated as if by a yawning chasm.

There are many signs that one of the great purposes of God in coming days will be to teach Christians much more about the nature of the church. The increasing emphasis on worship on every hand is one evidence of this. So is the widespread stress on the church as a community in which all members are gifted by the Holy Spirit for ministry and service. But these developments, along with others, cannot fully express themselves as long as believers in Jesus Christ are arrogant or suspicious concerning one another. So the increase of love and respect across the institutional boundaries is of great importance.

Here at OBC/OTS we hope that we are fostering such a spirit. We do not seek to suggest that the differences among various bodies of biblically-oriented Christians are inconsequential. But we do stress that those great matters of faith and life which we share in common are far greater than those items upon which we differ. In regard to the other matters students and faculty are encouraged to understand and maintain the distinctives of their churches. At the same time they are also urged to understand other positions, to treat such views with fairness and to show respect for those from whom they differ. In recent months a document has been drawn up entitled 'Guidelines on Divergent Viewpoints' which will likely be published in the *Recorder* when it has been approved by the Board. It is hoped that this statement will help to encourage the spirit of love among Christians at OBC/OTS, and maybe others will find it to be of help as well. We sincerely hope so.

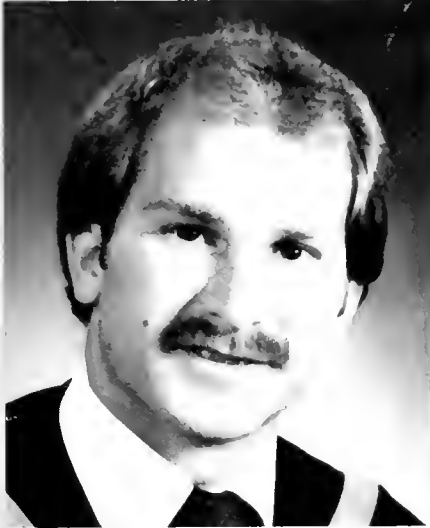
Alumni Communique

VOL.91 NO.4 WINTER 1985

Alumni Association of Ontario Bible College
Ontario Theological Seminary

OBC GRADUATES INVOLVED IN LAUNCHING "YOUTH NETWORK"

The Youth Network of Southern Ontario 84 York Blvd., Hamilton, Ontario L8R 1R6



Laird Crump
Parkway Bible Church
445-2820



Bill Thornton
Bridletowne Park Church
497-3600

In the spring of 1985, four youth pastors, Laird Crump (O.B.C. '80), Steve Baldry (O.B.C. '82), Bill Thornton (O.B.C. '81) and Mike Pawelke (Dallas '82) co-founded the *Youth Network of Southern Ontario*.

This is a non-profit, multid denominational association of youth ministries that is established to assist youth groups in the areas of ministry/leadership training, growth and outreach events. In order to assure a high quality program the *Youth Network* desires a written and financial commitment from local youth workers to attend the four major events; yet all are welcome.

The Advisory Board of Governors consists of Dr. William McRae, Mr. Alan Andrews, Mr. John Wilkinson, Rev. William Crump, Rev. Jack Hannah, Mr. Bruce Nethercott and Mr. Sheldon Street.

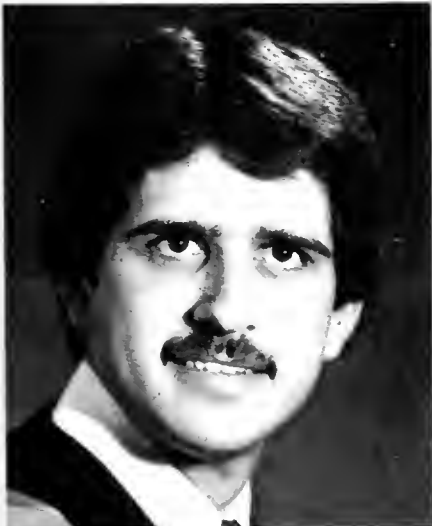
We encourage the participation of any youth group in this fast growing youth ministry adventure.

Some of the upcoming activities are as follows:

*Saturday, January 25, 1986 - Ministry/Leadership Seminar

*Saturday, March 8, 1986 - "Insight for Growth" Seminar. A day of creative instruction by qualified personnel on such topics as abortion, parents, peer pressure, dating, etc. Electives and recreation will be included.

*Saturday, May 10, 1986 - "Almost Anything Goes" (Outreach Activity). A day of crazy team competitions, sports, a barbecue and an evening of contemporary music.



Steve Baldry
Philpott Memorial Church
527-4802



Mike Pawelke
Dorset Park Church
752-4100

DON'T FORGET!!!

Alumni get a 25% reduction of cost to the Pastors' & Spouses' Conference, January 21-23, 1986

Thanks Alumni for Wonderful Support!

For the College/Seminary year ended May 31, 1985 our alumni have given a total of \$123,000.

Our target was \$125,000. Alumni contributions toward the elimination of the mortgage last year were \$14,000. Alumni contributions in general have been \$109,000. Thanks alumni! You are helping to facilitate the fulfilment of the Great Commission by supporting the ongoing training of men and women for Christian service in the homeland and to the ends of the earth.

Alumni Projects for 1985-86

For individuals and/or classes

- Towards Sponsor-A-Student \$555 semester / \$1110 year
- Towards Scholarship Fund
- Towards the purchase of more graduate level books for the library

Please indicate in which area you would like your gift to be used.

Your participation as an individual or as a class will facilitate the fulfilment of the Great Commission of our Lord Jesus Christ through the ongoing training of men and women for Christian service in the homeland and to the ends of the earth.

If we each do what we can, we shall together do great things.

Are you a regular contributor? Even a small amount given regularly can make a significant difference in this year.

Our target for the alumni contributions this year has been set at \$120,000. If we each do a little, we shall all do a lot!

Sponsor-A-Student Project

The actual operating expenses of our two institutions are significantly higher than income from general contributions and students' fees.

On a per student basis the annual shortfall amounts to approximately \$1110 or \$555 per semester.

Your alumni contributions to the S.A.S. program will help bridge the gap to make possible the training of more than 625 College/Seminary students in over 30 denominations for effective Christian service in Canada and other lands.

Let's continue to help OBC/OTS and our students in this meaningful and practical way!

You Have Shared....

We appreciate all of you alumni who have responded to our request for information for use in our "alumni profiles" in each issue of the *Evangelical Recorder*.

We shall endeavour to use these materials as they relate to the different themes selected for each issue of our magazine. Please keep them coming!

"Thanks for your letter and for the *Recorders* I receive regularly.

Enclosed is my cheque toward the work of the College. I'm still busy in the Lord's work though a shut-in. I continue to pray daily for the work of the college."

"It is great to read the testimonies of students and to learn that God is still calling out young people into His harvest field."

PROFILES



Love for the Flock

Commencement Exercises at London Bible Institute in 1949 marked the beginning of full-time ministry for Rev. & Mrs. Thomas Watson '49.

"April 1985 marked the beginning of another new phase of our ministry," he writes. He and his wife Phyllis looked to the Lord for His leading in their lives as they came to the retirement age of life. Pastor George Bradford, Board, and members graciously welcomed them into the pastoral staff of Oxford Baptist Church in Woodstock.

His main ministry is to assist Pastor Bradford, and take responsibility of visitation and follow up of members, adherents, and visitors to the church. Much of his time is occupied with weekly visits to the sick in hospitals and regular visits to the elderly in nursing homes.

"We are finding many who are yet unsaved or are unsure of their salvation," Tom says. "It is our happy privilege to present Christ to these needy ones."

They thank God for a church with a vision of outreach to include this kind of ministry to the senior citizens of our community to the glory of God.



Love for the Wayward

Rev. David Ganton (B.Th. '51) has worked as a probation officer for the past 15 years. This involves the preparation of pre-sentence reports and the supervision of people 16 and over put on probation by the courts. He has contact with at least 400 new people every year – a sobering responsibility as he readily admits.

"I came into this work because the Lord closed one door and opened another," said David who had previously been a Big Brother executive director for 6 years and a Baptist minister for 10. "This has been by far my greatest and most rewarding opportunity for meeting people and having a ministry in their lives."

David's wife Elizabeth (BETTY HILL, B.Th. '51) has been working in business and raising their family, all of whom have attended or graduated from O.B.C.



Love for the Ministry of the Word

Rev. Dwight Patterson (B.Th. '56) states that one of the great, if not the greatest principle of ministry, that has sustained him over almost 30 years of pastoring smaller churches throughout Ontario, has been that of II Timothy 4:1,2. "In the presence of Christ Jesus, who will judge the living and the dead, and in view of his appearing and his kingdom, I give you this charge: Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage – with great patience and careful instruction." Dr. Alden Gannet's theme during Dwight's days at O.B.C. (L.C.B.M.) was, "Fellows, preach the Word" – expound the Scriptures.

This is the type of ministry for the long haul: it builds stable congregations, enriches believers, and lays the foundation for evangelism.

Dwight says, "I thank God for the training which I received at O.B.C."



Love for Families

Beulah (Cornell) Frezell, B.R.E. '60 shares, "God in His goodness is allowing me to serve women through a Bible Teaching ministry in a Ladies' Coffee Hour here in west London, as well as visiting shut-ins and those in hospitals and nursing homes. I enjoy serving my Church (Wortley Baptist) as their kitchen co-ordinator. I believe the Spirit of God has given me the gifts of teaching the Word and encouragement.

There are many hurting people in our world and the Scriptures provide practical help and healing to our problems.

My heart is always encouraged as I prepare the Word and as I see God at work in the lives of women and families seeking to know God and obey Him for His glory." (I Corinthians 15:58).

KEEPING IN TOUCH

DEATHS

Mr. Leslie Nimigan, E.C. '52-'53, was promoted to glory May, 1985, in Mississauga, ON.

Mrs. Gordon Parsons (ANNIE WRIGHT '28) went to be with the Lord in April, in Owen Sound, ON.

Miss Doris Barrie '46 passed into the presence of the Lord on July 10 in Toronto, ON.

Mrs. Albert Elliot (RUTH JORDON '29-'30) was promoted to glory on April 26, in Brantford, ON.

Miss Kathleen Gostick '42 went to be with our Lord June 24 in Cannington, ON.

Maj. Gordon Brown, B.Th. '62, was promoted to glory on August 29, in Agincourt, ON.

Mr. Ernest Cechetto, E.C. '54, was promoted to glory on August 1, in Richmond Hill, ON.

Rev. Fred Darnell '30 was promoted to glory on April 19, in London, ON.

Miss Grace Woodcock '40 was promoted to glory in August, 1985, in Peterboro, ON.

MARRIAGES

Miss Linda Brinston, B.R.E. '82 to Mr. Dean Michaelis, B.R.E. '81 on Sept. 8 in the O.B.C. Chapel.

Mr. Kenneth Jolley, B.Th. '84 to Miss Mary-Ann Chappel on June 1 at Evangelical Baptist Church, in Owen Sound, ON.

Mr. Raymond Li, M.Div. '84 to Anna on July 27 in the O.B.C. Chapel.

Miss Eunice Spenler, Dip. '73 to Mr. Rick Prins, Cert. of Bible St. '81-'82 OTS, on August 10, in Toronto, ON.

Miss Janice Hicks, B.S.M. '79 to Gerald Lippert on July 20 at Lake Shore Bible Chapel in Waterloo, ON.

Mr. Donald Martin, '77-'78 to Gloria Dobbs on July 6 at Bethel Gospel Chapel, in North Bay, ON.

Miss Bonnie Tuinhof, B.R.E. '85 to Mr. Eric Mundy on June 15 at Binbrook United Church, Binbrook, ON.

Mr. Ted Reid, B.Th. '85 to Miss Lorraine Neal on July 15 at Donway Baptist Church, Don Mills, ON.

BIRTHS

Mr. & Mrs. Douglas Sadler, B.Th. '78 (CAROLIN HOGENBIRK '74-'75) praise God for the birth of a son, Luke Ryan Richard, on Feb. 21, in Peterboro, ON.

Mr. & Mrs. Stan Ball, B.Th. '81, announce the birth of a son, Spencer David William, on April 19, in Penticton, B.C.

Mr. & Mrs. James Swan, B.Th. '79 (DIANNE BARBOUR, B.R.E. '78) joyfully announce the adoption of Crystal Rose, born June 14, 1984; and the birth of Jeremy Alexander born Feb. 2, 1985, in Richmond Hill, ON.

Mr. & Mrs. Terry Aubin (ALICE COLE, B.R.E. '82) rejoice in the birth of Joshua Jerry, on June 5, in Cambridge, ON.

Mr. & Mrs. Colin Kohlsmith, B.Th. '83 (YONHEE PARK, '82-'83) joyfully announce the birth of John Timothy, on June 24, in Toronto, ON.

Pastor & Mrs. Michael Bells, M.Div. '84, were blessed with a son, Joel David, on April 23, in Mt. Albert, ON.

Mr. & Mrs. Steven Kerr, B.Th. '84 (KAREN BAKER, B.R.E. '80) joyfully announce the birth of Stephanie Elaine, on April 11, in Orillia, ON.

Mr. & Mrs. Art VanMiddelkoop, B.R.E. '82; B.Th. '84, were blessed with a son, Ian Christopher, on August 4, in Bothwell, ON.

Mr. & Mrs. Dave Nelson (SHARON STEPHENSON, B.Th. '76) joyfully announce the birth of a son, Jordon David, on April 19, in Calgary, AB.

Mr. & Mrs. George Pawluk (RUTH JORDON, Dip. '74) were blessed with a daughter, Rachel, on June 17, in Thunder Bay, ON.

Mr. & Mrs. Mike Lafleur (MARY BROGDEN, M.T.S. '83) rejoice in the birth of a daughter Chara Renée Hadass, on June 5, in Mississauga, ON.

Mr. & Mrs. Douglass Ward (DONNA CASSIDY, B.R.E. '79) joyfully announce the birth of a son, Jeremy Andrew, on April 27, in Winnipeg, MN.

Mr. & Mrs. Norm Tiffin (BARBARA, '71-'72) thank the Lord for the birth of a son, Chad, on June 17.

Rev. & Mrs. David Low, B.Th. '80 (HEATHER MCDONALD, Dip. '79) joyfully announce the birth of a daughter, Amanda Ruth, on March 28, in Owen Sound, ON.

Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Graham, B.R.E. '78, rejoice in the birth of a son, McKenzie Eric, on June 15, in Fairmount, North Dakota.

Rev. & Mrs. James Byrne, B.R.E. '76, praise God for the birth of a daughter, Rosemary Heather, on April 10, in Stouffville, ON.

Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Gibson, B.R.E. '81 (KELLY PRISTANSKI, B.R.E. '82) thank God for the birth of Jaime Elaine, on August 27, in Thunder Bay, ON.

Mr. & Mrs. Brian McKenzie B.Th. '77 (BARBARA TREWIN, '74-'75) rejoice with the birth of a son, David Alexander, on March 17, in Toronto, ON.

Rev. & Mrs. Lloyd Markle, B.Th. '75 (RUTH VOLD, B.R.E. '71-'73) rejoice in the birth of a son, Lyle James, on July 7, in Meaford, ON.

MISSIONS

Miss Janet Potz, B.S.M. '74 is serving as Personnel Secretary with A.I.M.

Mr. Paul Watson, B.R.E. '84, is serving with O.M. in India.

Rev. & Mrs. Timothy Medhurst, B.R.E. '72; B.Th. '78, are serving in urban ministries in Bolivia with C.B.O.M.B.

Mr. & Mrs. Glen Henderson, '70-'71 (MAYBETH TYLER, '70-'71) have returned to Zambia, Africa with A.E.F.

Rev. Robert Wilkins, B.Th. '66, is serving as Assistant Secretary of Canadian Missions Dept. of B.C.O.Q.

Miss Linda Bryant, B.R.E. '76, is serving as missionary nurse in Panama with Gospel Missionary Union.

Miss Beverly Clark, '70-'72, is serving with Radio ELWA in Monrovia, Liberia (S.I.M.).

Mr. & Mrs. Neil Steenson, B.R.E. '83, are serving with the Village Missions in Kaslo, BC.

Mr. & Mrs. Jake Wiens (MARY CASSEL, B.R.E. '76) are serving in Germany involved in church planting (Mennonite Brethren Missions Services).

Miss Joanne Leggat, '82; B.R.E. '84, is serving as a missionary in Burlington, ON with B.C.M.

Miss Colleen Smith '68-'70 is now serving as Secretary with Child Evangelism Fellowship in Markham, ON.

Mr. & Mrs. Ian McGrigg '69-'70, are on furlough from the Philippines (S.I.L. Mission).

Mr. & Mrs. Paul Estabrooks, B.Th. '66 (DIANNE PALMER, B.R.E. '63) are in Singapore with Open Doors.

Miss Ruth Copland, M.T.S. '84, is serving in Papua New Guinea with Missions to Lepers.

PASTORAL NEWS

Pastor Michael Bells, M.Div. '84, is now serving at Mt. Albert Missionary Church in Mt. Albert, ON.

Rev. Donald Boyd, B.R.E. '82, was ordained on Jan. 26, with the AGC of Canada at the Church of Crusader in Toronto, ON.

Rev. & Mrs. Calvin Stone, B.R.E. '77, are pastoring at Memorial Christian Church in Stouffville, ON.

Dr. & Mrs. Francis Rice '35 (HELEN KNIGHT '36) are pastoring at Cambridge St. Baptist Church, in Lindsay, ON.

Rev. & Mrs. Daniel Shurr, B.Th. '79 are pastoring at Willow Creek Baptist Church, in Midhurst, ON.

Mr. & Mrs. Robert E. Graham, B.R.E. '78 are pastoring at Fairmount United Methodist Church in Fairmount, North Dakota.

Rev. & Mrs. Robert Lewis, B.Th. '80, are pastoring at Forest Baptist Church, Forest, ON.

Rev. & Mrs. Howard Hawes, '65-'67 (JANICE MARION, '66-'67) are pastoring at Church of Good Shepherd in Montreal, P.Q.

We regret that our space limitations prevent us from including every news item that we receive.

THE PASTOR'S PAGE *Christmas Preaching: Pain or Pleasure?*

James P. Vold

If most pastors are honest, they will admit that one of the most difficult Sundays of the year is Christmas Sunday. There are two basic reasons for this. One is the general weariness of the people who occupy the pews. They have just gone through the high pressure of one of commerce's most vital seasons. The extra hours in shopping (or serving) take a physical and emotional toll. People who have become worn out in department store crowds do not suddenly become renewed and refreshed simply by sinking into the soft cushions on the pews at First Church as the organ intones a semi-chime version of "Silent Night".

The other problem is the general familiarity with the season's theme. How many different ways can you describe angelic visits? Is there no end to lessons from overcrowded inns? Sometimes even the notes of "Joy to the World" seem just a little jaded. Don't you secretly wish that Bing Crosby had never noticed that Christmas was white?

How do the pastor and his concerned and supportive people handle this seasonal letdown? We might try a more simplified pre-Christmas style. Would our friendships really rupture if for once we failed to patronize Currier and Ives? Postal services are so poor we almost have to mail the cards in July anyway! But can the store employee refuse to work those extra hours because he knows they are not in honour of his Lord? Is it fair to our fellow workers to deprive them of possible employment through

cutting the store's yearly profits? Are we good citizens when we slow legitimate economies to non-lucrative status?

Much as we might like to roll back the tide to more simple times (were they really that simple?), we have to admit that time, like a great printing press, engraves today's page and moves on to another era.

Some preachers have solved the problem by simply ignoring the season homiletically. When church ads in most papers were much less theatrical and sermon titles were much more revealing, it was always interesting to peruse the church page to see what was offered on Christmas Sunday. One ad comes vividly to mind. It read "the pastor's study of I Thess. continues". How do you find a Christmas theme in an epistle that is almost exclusively devoted to the Second Advent? I wonder what Criswell, preaching through the Bible, did when Christmas came while he was in the genealogical tables of the Chronicles?

Other churches try to fill the niche by substitution. I always wondered, when I was pastoring local churches, why so many of my associates seemed to leap at the chance to have a "guest speaker". I rather think I know why! Or we can always have a candlelight carol service with bits of poetry and many solos. Less popular, for some strange reason, is a more major use of dramatic presentations. Can it be that, in spite of the popularity of the audio-visual, we still feel there is a bit of evil in anything which seems theatrical? But then why would God

call us "theatres" to the world, angels and men (1 Cor. 4:9)?

Need we cast all of these ideas aside and return to a somber ritual without modern melody or colour? May we not effectively use substitute speakers, musical dialogues and dramatic presentations as well as our normal homiletic activities?

Let me suggest two additional thoughts. One is that we all engage in more protracted devotional contemplation. For the preacher that may well mean that the old text will be ablaze with a new realization and the task of proclamation is not a chore but an unequalled privilege. To allow for this additional contemplation we may have to trim our pre-Christmas programs instead of always adding new items. I used to find it hard to be fresh (spiritually and physically) when I had been expected to attend a couple of dozen socials and programs.

Along with the contemplation is the need for more careful prayer preparation. If pastor and people bathe the Christmas Sunday services in long seasons of joyful prayer, a new sense of God's special presence will attend the familiar celebrations of old texts and carols.

It may be too late to do much about our 1985 Christmas festivities, but both pastor and people can start to plan now for a simplified pre-Christmas in 1986 so they may fully enjoy the grand celebration of His great love.

CAREER OPPORTUNITY IN PUBLIC RELATIONS SALES

Community Service Systems is a dynamic national Christian sales organization with an exciting concept in Public Relations sales.

We're looking for individuals who:

- are experienced in sales
- are self starters
- can relate to small town business owners
- project honest, sincere personality
- are able to invest

CSS offers you:

- strong company support
- high income earning potential
- annual renewal accounts
- a long-term career

LOOK INTERESTING?

Write or call us to find out about available territories across Canada. Information package sent on request.

Head Office:

Mr. Bill Youell
Community Service
Systems Group
P.O. Box 3770
Edmonton, Alberta
T5L 4J8
(403) 486-0719

Eastern Canadian Office:

Mr. Everett Davey
Community Service
Systems Group
R.R. 2
Peterborough,
Ontario K9J 6X3
(705) 743-8121

Humphrey

Funeral Home

A.W. Miles Chapel



Paul W. Sorley

Mr. Thomas A. Humphrey, President, is pleased to announce the addition of Paul W. Sorley to their staff of Funeral Directors.

Mr. Sorley has been associated with funeral service in Toronto for more than thirty-five years.

This addition reflects a recent Company re-organization, and the important emphasis which the Humphrey Funeral Home places on service to the community.

OBC/OTS STAFF UPDATE

Elizabeth Collett has served OBC/OTS on a part-time basis since January '85. In August we officially welcomed Liz to her new position as part-time secretary to the Recruitment Office.

We appreciate the many capable people God directs to serve as OBC/OTS support team members. One of these individuals is *Mrs. Evi Kaups* who joined our family this summer as a valuable part-time assistant in the OBC Registrar's Office.

In August, *Gail Johnstone* assumed her position as Manager of Communications and Publications at OBC/OTS. Gail's background as an editor will be an asset in the Development Department.

Mrs. Jane (Martin) Flook was at OBC for five years – as a student and as a staff member, serving in the Library and with the Evening School Department. Jane is now employed as an executive secretary in a large corporation.

Mr. Paul Watson is another former OBC student who has served as a faithful member of Campus Operations' staff for the past year. We rejoice with him as he responds to God's leading to serve as a missionary with OM in Belgium and India.

Mrs. Heather (McDonald) Low is an OBC graduate of '79 who returned "home" on August 27 to assist on a part-time basis with the secretarial workload in OBC's Field Education Department.

During his student days at both OBC and OTS, *Jim Clark* has served diligently on the Campus Operations' team. Jim is now a full-time staff member while continuing his OTS studies on a part-time basis.

We are delighted that *Kay Hackney* joined our staff family in September. Kay is an experienced secretary with many talents which will be very useful in her new role as secretary to the Evening School Department.

Mrs. Silvia (Paolucci) Pasloske completed her housekeeping responsibilities this fall. Silvia has been a valued member of the Campus Operations' team for the past three years – on a part-time basis while studying at OBC, and then in a full-time capacity.

Assuming the full-time role as housekeeper is Silvia's sister, *Miss Margaret Paolucci*. Marg has previously proven to be a pleasant worker on the OBC/OTS summer maintenance teams. She will be taking a break from her OBC studies to serve as a full-time staff member.

Mrs. Norma Parker completed her duties as Bookstore Manager in October in order to care for her aging parents. Norma joined us on a part-time basis in August '79, assuming the position of Bookstore Manager in June '81.

In November we said farewell to *Mrs. Colleen Lymburner* who has been our cheerful receptionist/switchboard operator for the past 18 months. We rejoice with Colleen and Paul as they anticipate the arrival of their first child in January.

OTS FACULTY UPDATE

During the 1985-86 academic year there have been a number of new people participating in teaching at OTS.

Kevin Quast is full-time, acting as registrar and writing his doctoral thesis, and is a deacon at Blythwood Baptist Church in Toronto.

Among the part-time teachers in the fall term are John Vissers and Doug Harink, both of whom are engaged in doctoral studies in theology. John is a Presbyterian minister whose wife Lynn received the BRE from OBC in 1982, while Doug has been an elder in Danforth Baptist, Toronto.

Those teaching part-time in both

terms this year are Allan Martens, Rick Tobias and John Wilkinson. Allan is a doctoral student in New Testament who is teaching Greek and is involved in Lorne Park Baptist Church in Mississauga. Rick is the director of Yonge Street Mission's Evergreen Centre right on Yonge Street and brings a remarkable combination of personality, experience, and training to his teaching of Urban Ministry. John Wilkinson, the chairman of OBC's Christian Education department, is teaching courses in one of his areas of specialty, namely Youth Ministry, with his courses greatly enriched by his recent doctoral studies in education.

In the spring term OTS will also

welcome two new part-time teachers. One will be Gerald Vandezande of Citizens for Public Justice who will be leading an interdisciplinary course on Christianity and Politics and whose Christian Reformed heritage gives him an excellent biblical and theological foundation for such an endeavour. The other is Harold Burchett, pastor of High Park Baptist Church, Toronto, who will be teaching the Nature of Ministry, and who brings not only some thirty years of experience in the pastorate, but also a period as Professor of Pastoral Studies, Columbia Graduate School of Bible and Missions, Columbia, South Carolina.

STALEY ACADEMIC LECTURE SERIES

March 3-5, 1986

Special Lecturer: Dr. Arthur Glasser



Dean Emeritus and Senior Professor of Theology, Mission and East Indian Studies, Fuller Theological Seminary, School of World Mission.

Dr. Glasser will be presenting his six sessions on the general theme: The Kingdom of God and the Mission of the Church. Held at 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. daily in Hooper Chapel on the Ontario Bible College/Ontario Theological Seminary campus at 25 Ballyconnor Court, Willowdale, Ontario M2M 4B3.

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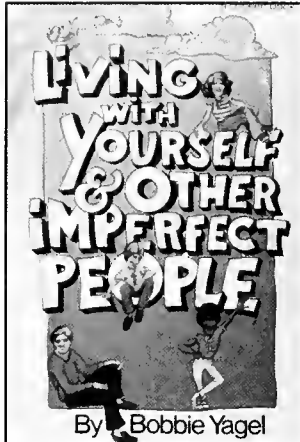
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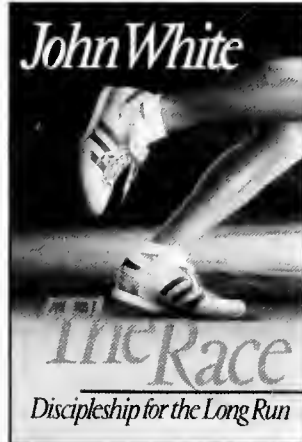


LIVING WITH YOURSELF AND OTHER IMPERFECT PEOPLE

by Bobbie Yagel. Zondervan/Chosen (distributed by R.G. Mitchell), 1983, 163 pp. \$9.00 (Canadian)

Bobbie Yagel gives a fascinating and thought-provoking account of the blessings and struggles of several Christian couples who attempt to work out in a practical way the idea of *koinonia* as expressed in Scripture. Her book is intended as a challenge to mature Christians honestly seeking a more closely shared lifestyle and ministry to one another. Although not everyone could personally endorse or accept all her ideas, good Biblical principles of true Christian fellowship (*koinonia*) are scattered like gems throughout the book. It is a well-written narrative describing a real-life situation that comes as a challenge to our closely held individual privacy and independence.

Mrs. Mary Taylor,
O.B.C. Staff



THE RACE: DISCIPLESHIP FOR THE LONG RUN

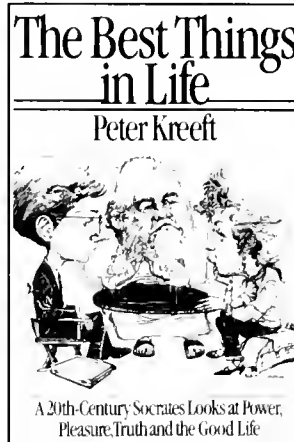
by John White. InterVarsity, 1984, 212 pp. \$5.95 (U.S.)

John White's book, *The Race*, is a book of practical insights about discipleship. Because discipleship results from commitment to Christian truth, in Part I White expounds key Christian concepts such as the doctrine of God, Christ, man's guilt, and the Scriptures. He does so skilfully and practically. Part II is about Christian Witness. The chapter entitled "Is Witnessing Brainwashing?" discusses the problem of psychological and manipulative tactics in bringing about decisions. White feels there is a real danger in some types of evangelism where people are pressured into a decision.

In Part III White discusses Christ's Lordship, the meaning of faith, the quiet time, guidance, and forgiveness. Each chapter contains excellent insights, though continuity between the chapters is lacking.

Part IV deals with problems of discipleship and contains chapters on self, depression, gossip, and pornography and pain.

Dr. Don Leggett, OTS Faculty

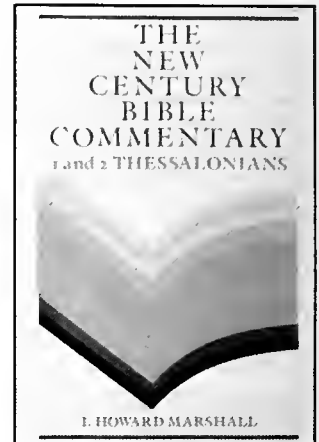


THE BEST THINGS IN LIFE

by Peter Kreeft. Inter-Varsity, 1984, 189 pp. \$4.95 (U.S.)

Based on Socrates' familiar maxim "the unexamined life is not worth living," author Peter Kreeft challenges his readers to examine by logical thinking the modern values we embrace so readily. He creates an entertaining scenario where the old Greek philosopher comes to the campus of Desperate State University and makes friends with Peter Pragma and Felicia Flake. Their dialogues are witty and colloquial as Socrates questions the assumptions Peter and Felicia have taken for granted, and reading goes quickly at first. But as the book progresses, a mini-course in logic and reasoning calls for some unhurried reflection. Kreeft masterfully avoids cliché Christian answers to secular value judgments of the good life, pleasure, truth, and power. The author would have enjoyed sparring matches with such masters as C.S. Lewis and G.K. Chesterton and creatively calls us to carry on the tradition of examined living.

Mrs. Elizabeth Davey,
O.B.C. Faculty



1 AND 2 THESSALONIANS

(New Century Bible Commentary)
by I. Howard Marshall. Wm. Eerdmans Publishing Company - Oxford University Press, 1983, 256 pp., paperback, \$8.75 (U.S.)

This commentary is a recent addition to the *New Century Bible Commentary* and unlike the others which are reprints, this is an entirely new work.

Marshall has a lengthy introduction in which he ably refutes the theory that 2 Thessalonians is not a genuine work of Paul. One example of his exegetical skill is seen in his discussion of the problematic text, 1 Thess. 4:4. He presents the two major views well, namely that the term "vessel" may refer to one's own body or to one's wife.

Theological problems are also carefully explored. He presents seven possible views for the identity of "restrainer" in 2 Thess. 2 and concludes that it refers to the preaching of the gospel as God's means of restraining evil today.

One may not always agree with Marshall's interpretations of the eschatological sections but the commentary is a helpful one.

Dr. Roy R. Matheson,
O.T.S. Faculty

GOD, YOU ARE THERE



MY GOD!
Expletive? Profanity?
Desperation?
Acknowledgement?
Adoration? Having lived in South Thailand for many years and suddenly hearing those two words, I react! Millions have no concept of a God. Millions more know only a God who can deceive - who doesn't care.

MY GOD -
I know You are there, I know You care! I saw you in nature as a child. I saw You touch leprosy folk in China. I saw You answer my desperate prayer as a nursing student in Ottawa. I know You in me - the Hope of Glory!

MY GOD -
How do I share You? I sought Your face and You stooped and looked into mine. Thank You for

coming down to my level - I heard You say, "Go. Go, you are anointed to preach, to heal, to liberate, to open, to proclaim." I went.

MY GOD -
"Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of Thy love." Your Son Jesus touched - oh how He touched! He had compassion, He healed, He blessed with His hands. Let me show You are there and You care for those who hurt. May my hands, head, heart, move together, controlled by your love.

MY GOD -
Twenty-five years ago You founded Saiburi Christian Hospital in South Thailand. Thank You. Thank You for calling me to share Your love there as a surgical nurse. Thank You for placing me in a team-family to love others to You.

MY GOD -
You changed the heart of that Malay Muslim terrorist. You dug out the sin in his heart as You helped me dig out his stinking ulcer.

You made that Buddhist woman value the life You gave as she was treated for the scarring adhesions of an infected abortion.

You caused a curse to be removed and that 50 pound pregnant woman ate once again and delivered her 1 pound child - who lived! You laid Your hand upon that Chinese Vietnamese refugee. You wept with us as I treated the results of her multiple rapes. You brought her into Your Kingdom through that Singapore evangelist who came in obedience to Your call. He who 'just happened' to speak that girl's dialect.

You love that leprosy boy who rejoiced on being 'hugged'. I was only arching his body for a spinal anaesthetic. He was grateful for Your touch through me.

OH MY GOD -
I look at my life, my hands and sometimes I wonder, is it worth it? Weariness, lack of skill and knowledge, misunderstandings, bitterness, loneliness - all sap energy of heart and energy of body. Your Son Jesus asked, "Were there not ten cleansed? Where are the nine?" Is it worth it for one? Remember I asked You for renewal, refreshment? I talked to You about the spiritual gifts You give. You told me to use the one You had already given me, "To

show mercy with cheerfulness." You reminded me that self-pity and despair came from Satan. So, back to hell with despair - the victory is won by Your Son!

OH MY GOD -
Is it worth it for one? A thousand times "Yes"! I know it is because once I was that one. Your Son, the Good Shepherd, went out in the darkness to carry me home.

MY GOD -
You are here in North America. You are there in South Thailand! You do care! You sent Jesus to be the Light of the world, the Love to the world! He is. He came. He touched. He healed. He saved. He blessed! He still does.

Please God light my candle, gentle my hands to share the wonderful fact that You are God and You care!!

(Check Psalm 18:35 NIV to discover for yourself the delightful fact that God stooped to make us great.)

Helen Bacon '63 B.Sc. is a surgical nurse with the Overseas Missionary Fellowship at Saiburi Christian Hospital, South Thailand

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ANNOUNCING

President W.J. McRae takes pleasure, on behalf of the Board of Governors, in announcing the following promotions:

Rev. R. Duez - Vice President OBC
Dr. Ian Rennie - Vice President OTS
A. Grills - Vice President Development
A. Kaups - Vice President Administration

These appointments recognize the strong contribution made by these individuals to the ongoing development of these institutions and establishes a basis for further growth and excellence in these institutions.

"Calvary Christian School requires a senior kindergarten teacher..."

from January - June 1986. This is a part-time position, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Prospective applicants should send resume to the Principal, David C. Penney, Calvary Christian School, 26 Bruce Street, Woodbridge, Ontario L4L 1J4

FACULTY FOCUS



Jim Johnson

The able head librarian at OBC/OTS since 1981 has been Mr. Jim Johnson. An American citizen who has landed immigrant status, he has been involved in Canadian college libraries since 1977 when he became Public Services Librarian at Prairie Bible Institute in Three Hills, Alberta.

He received degrees from Philadelphia College of the Bible, Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, Texas, and Columbia Graduate School of the Bible

and Missions in South Carolina.

Mr. Johnson has had extensive experience in many phases of library work at Christian schools and at a public library in South Carolina. That experience stands him in good stead as he faces the challenge of developing the OTS library to meet the demanding standards required for ATS accreditation.

He lives with his wife and their five children in Stouffville, where they are active in the Missionary Church. Mr. Johnson is on

the education committee of Stouffville Christian School, which his children attend.

He is involved in the OBC evening school program, teaching a three-course series leading to a "Certificate in Church Librarianship". In addition, he is the book review editor of the *Evangelical Recorder*.

One is hardly surprised to learn that the head librarian states that his hobbies are reading and writing!

ONTARIO BIBLE COLLEGE – SPRING 1986 – EVENING SCHOOL COURSES

DIPLOMA COURSES – SPRING 1986

PART I – SATURDAY Jan. 11, 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

New Testament Walk Through The Bible

PART I – TUESDAY EVENINGS Jan. 28 to Mar. 4, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Techniques of Counselling for Laymen (1) J. Brownlee
Intermediate Guitar A. Davey
Techniques of Evangelism & Discipleship of Children L. Schmidt
Church Music Symposium J. Bell

PART I – THURSDAY EVENINGS Jan. 30 - Mar. 6, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Survey of Prophecy (1) J. Vold
An Exposition and Study of Jude's Epistle "Apostasy and the End Times" D. Hamilton
Church Administration D. Jost
Basic Journalistic Writing L. Tarr

PART II – SATURDAY Mar. 1, 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

This is a one-day, all-day course
Preparation for Marriage G. Taylor

PART II – SATURDAY Mar. 1, 9:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.

This is a one-day, all-day course
Making a Good Thing Better: Marriage Enrichment W. & M. McRae

PART II – TUESDAY EVENINGS Mar. 18 - Apr. 22, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Teaching Techniques D. Roberts
Techniques of Counselling for Laymen (2) J. Brownlee
Parables of the Kingdom E. Lackey
"Do It Our Way or You're Fired" (A Philosophy to be Evaluated) R. Binkley

PART II – THURSDAY EVENINGS Mar. 20 - Apr. 24, 7:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Survey of Prophecy (2) J. Vold
Developing the Church Library Collection J. Johnson
Practical Themes from Proverbs R. Unruh
Discovering and Developing Lay Leaders G. Akin

REGISTRATION: Courses as noted (*) require pre-registration. Contact the Registrar of OBC Evening School (see address below) for full details. To enroll in all other Diploma courses, simply arrive at OBC at least one-half hour before the class starting time on the first night the course is scheduled. You may register at that time for any course listed that night. A course that has fewer than 12 students registered will not be offered.

TIMETABLE: Each Diploma course runs for six weeks. Most courses meet from 7:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on the specified evening, but please note that some courses are scheduled at other times.

COLLEGE CREDIT COURSES – SPRING 1986

MONDAY EVENINGS

Piano Class MU-164 6:30-7:30 p.m.
Choral Conducting MU-264 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Church History Survey FD-104 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Theological Studies TH-322 6:30-9:30 p.m.

TUESDAY EVENINGS

History of Missions MI-204 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Understanding the N.T. FD-102 6:30-9:30 p.m.
The Gospel of Matthew BI-212 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Worship and Leading Church Services FS-337 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Christian Themes in Literature II 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Milton LI-272 6:30-9:30 p.m.

THURSDAY EVENINGS

Marriage and Family FD-302 6:30-9:30 p.m.
First and Second Peter BI-216 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Camp Administration CA-301 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Human Development FD-201 6:30-9:30 p.m.

HOW TO APPLY FOR ACCEPTANCE: To be accepted into the College Credit Division, you must make special application, in advance. To receive the application papers, write to the Registrar of OBC Evening School (see address above). Only those who apply in advance and who are accepted, can enroll in College Credit Courses.

REGISTRATION: To enroll in any College Credit course, simply arrive at OBC between 5:45 p.m. and 6:15 p.m. on the evening the course begins. You may register at that time for any course being offered that night.

TIMETABLE: Each College Credit course runs for 13 weeks. Most courses meet from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. on the evening specified, but please note that some courses are scheduled at other times.

SATELLITE SCHOOLS: Held in Barrie, Blind River, Burlington, Elliot Lake, Guelph, Hamilton, Kitchener, London, Lindsay, Mississauga, Oakville, Ottawa, Pickering, St. Catharines, Weston and Woodbridge.

COST: Diploma Division fees are \$35.00 per course. Each Diploma course runs for 6 weeks. Credit Division fees are \$65 per credit. 4 credit course = \$260.00, 2 credit course = \$130.00, 1 credit course = \$65.00.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Phone or Write, Registrar of Evening School, Ontario Bible College, 25 Ballyconnor Court, Willowdale, Ontario M2M 4B3 (416) 226-6380.

FACULTY FOCUS



George Hay

The Rev. George Hay, dean of students at OBC, is a native of Barrie who completed his college studies in the United States. He is a graduate of Wheaton College (B.A.) and of Fuller Seminary (B.D.).

Upon completion of college and seminary studies, he served as pastor of First Covenant Church in Winnipeg, First Covenant Church in Chicago, and Oxford Baptist Church in Woodstock, Ontario. During his pastorate in Winnipeg,

he was also on the part-time faculty of Winnipeg Bible College.

As dean of students, he provides leadership to the Community Life Department, where he directs and co-ordinates the activities of six associates and staff members. Dean Hay states that he finds that ministry to be challenging and, in several regards, similar to pastoral oversight. He feels that it is important to develop and cultivate a sense of Christian community during the students' college experience

to prepare them for leadership and involvement in Christian community in local churches or in association with national churches and national Christians.

Mr. Hay and his wife Carol live in Unionville with their teenaged son and daughter. Mrs. Hay is also a psychiatric nurse.

Still a pastor at heart, Dean Hay is completing a 3-1/2 year interim pastorate at Chinese Gospel Church in the heart of Toronto's Chinatown.

The OBC Experience at Ontario Bible College March 10-11, 1986

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To: Alex Parachin, Recruitment Representative of Ontario Bible College, 25 Ballyconnor Court, Willowdale Ontario M2M 4B3.

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Christmas reminds us of the One who said, "I was hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in."

At the Scott Mission we seek to serve, by word and deed, Him for whom there was no room in the inn.

To all our friends, a Blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year.

NURTURING EACH WOMAN

Sharon Bell

CHRISTMAS - AGAIN?

What makes Christmas worthwhile for you? Would you like to listen in on some family secrets?

Mary and Glenn Taylor take movies every Christmas Day. Everyone eats breakfast *first*, then the movies are taken of their family as they walk in to see the tree. Each year the movies are viewed on Christmas Eve and quite a fuss is made if any year is left out!

Lorna Arndt has made a special pact with her three sisters and her sister-in-law. Their parents are gone now, and the five girls determined that on the Monday before Christmas they would all go to Lorna's place, have a full Christmas dinner and exchange small gifts. If a problem ever arises with that particular day, the date will be kept sometime, even if not until Easter.

In the Rennie family, there are *always* visitors present for Christmas. Even as newlyweds, the Rennies were involved with InterVarsity conferences at Christmas time. They became quite accustomed to having 15 to 20 people for Christmas. Last year it appeared that there would

only be the immediate family for Christmas. Some family members were so upset that they rounded up other guests. This family says that they are the ones who receive the benefit from it all.

Shirley Duez tries in various ways to make Christmas a special day. That's the day for "the best cooked meal of the year". Young son Brian once received some PJ's that were too long for him. He calmly picked up some scissors, and hoping to solve the problem, cut them off at the knees. Parents, have you ever tied the bedroom doors shut so that kids could not get up too early? Bob and Shirley have.

When their family was younger, Marilyn McRae arranged for parts of the Christmas story to be read and dramatized after dinner each evening during the week before Christmas.

What worthwhile activities could avert possible disaster at Christmas time? Picking names for one or a few gifts instead of having to buy for everyone can avoid the problem of family members skipping Christmas because they cannot buy all the presents required. Making gifts all year long and

picking up bargain gifts in advance helps avoid the last minute rush on shopping when nerves are on edge. Planning well in advance to fairly handle the "in-law" problem is a must. How about Christmas Eve at his home and Christmas at her home one year, and then a switch the next year. Limiting cost and number of presents can also help avoid disaster.

Does helping others make your Christmas worthwhile? One family kept a "change vase" in their kitchen. Upon returning from shopping, they deposited loose change in this vase. When it was totally full, a missionary was chosen, invited over, presented with the gift, and then everyone helped roll up the change to go to the bank! Yonge St. Mission could use plenty of help at Christmas time. Get to know what they

are involved in. Helping a needy child through World Vision is another idea. Take your family to an old folks home. Give baking to some busy households. Give a small gift to each family on your apartment floor.

What makes Christmas worthwhile for you? Memories are made of happenings. Happenings need to be planned. How do we make Christmas Christ-centred and valuable to our families?

Why do you celebrate Christmas? Is it because "we love Him because He first loved us"? Even in planning Christmas we can love God with all we have and love our neighbours as ourselves. Yes, it's Christmas - again!

Sharon Bell is a part-time Instructor, Department of Sacred Music, Ontario Bible College.



UPCOMING N.E.W. EVENTS

When: Tuesday
January 21, 1986
Time: 7:15
Speaker: Jill Briscoe

This evening is a feature of the Pastors' and Spouses' Conference

When: Friday March 21, 1986
Time: 7:15
Theme: "Let's Get Growing"
All women welcome!

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THINKING CHRISTIANLY ABOUT BUSINESS

Corporate Ethics Statements

Ray Binkley

With all the hype being given these days to the employee's sense of well being and the basic values of organizations, it is increasingly in vogue for companies to develop statements of ethics. These can be useful in upgrading the moral climate of the workplace, and consequently we should do all we can to encourage their use and improvement. Here is a suggestion (albeit a somewhat risky one) for those who are looking for work or considering changing jobs.

Why not ask prospective employers to kindly provide you with their statement of ethics? (It may be called something else; e.g., a company responsibility statement.)

While this document will not, of course, be an infallible guide (since a good statement may not be used effectively) it can tell you much about the company you are considering.

First the company may not have a statement. Here is a little warning because most responsible companies these days have developed such a document.

Second, if they have a statement, is it filled with



platitudes? I have seen fancy statements which say that the company and its employees will obey the law and will not give or take bribes. While this is a beginning, surely more needs to be included.

Eli Lilly Corporation is a practical/successful/thriving organization. Their statement includes the following:

An individual with the least understanding of people can fire anybody if he has the authority, but it takes a confident individual with much tolerance, consideration and understanding of human beings to help an unfortunate employee to overcome a

situation and develop that employee to a point where he will be a satisfied, happy, contented employee. Such individuals really are worth working with.

Third, you must realize that any effort to institute or improve a corporate ethics statement is risky. In the October 17, 1983 *FORTUNE* article, "The Corporate Culture Cultures", we read:

A review of the evidence suggests that anybody who tries to unearth a corporation's culture, much less change it, is in for a rough time. The values and beliefs people espouse frequently have little to do with the ones they really hold: these tend to be half-hidden and elusive.

Just asking that prospective employers provide you with their statement of ethics will cause many companies to immediately identify you as "a trouble maker" or even worse (in their eyes) "an idealist". Maybe this isn't so risky after all, for would you really want to work for a company which has these attitudes?

At least this is a way an individual Christian can minister in a small way to an organization. If enough of us ask for such statements this will have a positive impact, even if we meet with hostility.

Jesus didn't say it was going to be easy.

MAGIC WITH A MESSAGE

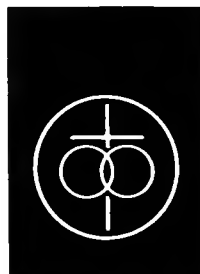
Murray McMullen
Magician and Ventriloquist



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Pastors' & Spouses' Conference

Three days of Renewal for Ministry on the campus of Ontario Bible College/Ontario Theological Seminary at 25 Ballyconnor Court, Willowdale, Ontario M2M 4B3

SPEAKERS:

Dr. Stuart Briscoe has been pastor since 1970 at Elmbrook Church in Brookfield, a suburb of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Author of 12 books, Dr. Briscoe has spoken in over 50 countries.

Mrs. Jill Briscoe is a popular speaker, Bible study leader and author. She is a director of "Telling the Truth", a multimedia ministry.

REGISTRATION:

3 to 4 p.m., Tuesday, January 21, 1986

SESSIONS:

4 p.m., Tuesday, January 21 to noon, Thursday, January 23, 1986.

COST:

\$40.00 Pre-registration, plus \$15.00 for spouse OR \$50.00 on arrival, plus \$20.00 for spouse. (Includes all meals and conference sessions. Arrange your own accommodation.)

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TIME:

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COST:

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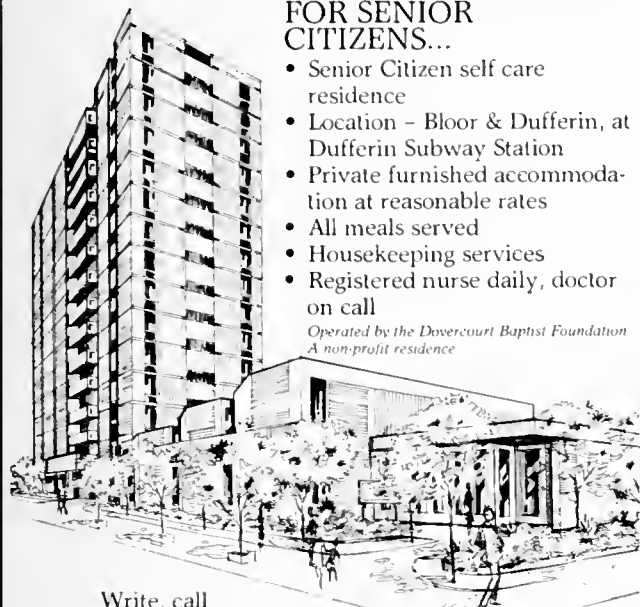
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January 5

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March 15, 16

Speaking at a Leadership '86 Youth
Conference at Trinity College in Port Hope

Dr. MARIANO DI GANGI

February 21-28

Preaching and teaching in Cairo, Egypt

March 1-8

Lecturing at Union Biblical Seminary in Pune,
India

March 10-20

Evangelistic Ministry in Sicily, Italy

REV. JAMES VOLD

March 1

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PHASE THREE -
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